

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 BIB-01 HA-05 OES-07 EB-08
TRSE-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 /125 W
-----013238 262326Z /14

R 251809Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3245
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 00902

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SP, AG
SUBJECT: OPPOSITION LEADER TO NEGOTIATE SUPPRESSION OF
"RADIO FREE CANARIES"

1. FELIPE GONZALEZ, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SOCIALIST
PSOE, SPAIN'S MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTY, WILL TAKE THE
OCCASION OF HIS TRIP TO ALGERIA FOR A MEETING ON
CHILE TO RAISE, REPORTEDLY WITH BOUMEDIENE HIMSELF AND
WITH BOUMEDIENE ADVISOR HOFFMAN, THE DESIRABILITY OF
ELIMINATING, OR AT LEAST REDUCING, THE BROADCASTS
FROM ALGIERS OF CANARIES INDEPENDENTIST (MPAIAC)
LEADER ANTONIO CUBILLO.

2. THE NEWS, BROKEN BY THE LEFT-LIBERAL DAILY EL PAIS,
IMMEDIATELY DREW RECOLLECTIONS OF PSOE EFFORTS TO
OBTAIN THE RELEASE -- AND THE CREDIT THEREFORE -- OF
THREE SPANISH FISHERMEN HELD BY THE POLISARIO (77 MADRID
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9428 AND PREVIOUS, NOTAL), AND WAS ALSO COMPARED
WITH KING JUAN CARLOS' GESTURE IN SENDING HIS FATHER
TO MEET WITH QADHAFI ON THE CANARIES PROBLEM (MADRID
856 AND PREVIOUS, NOTAL). THE PLOY IS A GOOD ONE
FROM THE PSOE POINT OF VIEW, HELPING TO MAKE CLEAR
THAT ITS SUPPORT OF THE ALGERIAN BACKED POLISARIO IS
DISTINCT FROM ITS POSITION, WHICH IT SHARES WITH ALL

OTHER MAJOR SPANISH PARTIES, THAT THE "SPANISHNESS" OF THE CANARIES IS NOT TO BE DISPUTED.

3. THE PSOE DID NOT COME OUT ALL THAT WELL IN THE FISHERMEN EPISODE, AS CHARGES OF GRANDSTANDING FROM OTHER LEFTIST PARTIES LED IT TO LOWER ITS PROFILE IN THE CASE TO NEAR-INVISIBILITY. WITH GONZALEZ NOW COMMITTED TO TAKING THE CUBILLO MATTER UP WITH THE ALGERIANS, THE OUTCOME OF THIS CASE APPEARS TO DEPEND ON WHETHER THE GOA DECIDES TO GRANT THE PSOE WHAT IT HAS SO FAR REFUSED THE GOS. CONSIDERING THE CURRENT STATE OF OFFICIAL ALGERIAN-SPANISH RELATIONS, IT IS NOT A DECISION TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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